

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2005-270-G - ORDER NO. 2006-310

JULY 12, 2006

IN RE: Request for Investigation to Determine	) ORDER GRANTING
Whether a Regulation Should be Promulgated	) AND DENYING IN PART
Requiring Relocation of Certain Meter Sets or	) PETITION AND MOTION
Installation of Splash Guards on these Meter	)
Sets.	)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Office of Regulatory Staff's (ORS') Petition for Reconsideration and Motion for Clarification of Order Nos. 2006-168 and 2006-168(A). Because of the reasoning stated below, we grant the Petition and Motion in part and deny in part.

First, ORS requests that only gas suppliers or operators that have Type 12 meters or meters susceptible to an incident like the one that occurred in this Docket be required to file a status report of their Type 12 gas meter remediation progress. This proposal must be denied. If a gas supplier does not have any Type 12 gas meters or meters susceptible to an incident like the one that occurred in this Docket, the gas supplier can relay this information in a single report to the ORS.

Second, ORS requests that this Commission clarify its Order with respect to the contents of the Type 12 gas meter remediation progress status report ordered in Order Nos. 2006-168 and 2006-168(A). We grant clarification regarding the contents of the

status report. Accordingly, we hold that the status report of gas suppliers should include the following information:

1. Total number of Type 12 Meter Sets on System;
2. Total number of Type 12 Meter Sets Subject to Service Regulatory Vent Moisture Intrusion and Freezing (those meter sets which either must be reconfigured or have a splash guard installed);
3. Total Number to be Reconfigured;
4. Total Number to have Splash Guards Installed;
5. Reconfiguration Schedule;
6. Splash Guard Installation Schedule;
7. Total Number Reconfigured to Date;
8. Total Number Splash Guards Installed to Date;
9. Forecast for Completing Reconfigurations; and
10. Forecast for Completing Splash Guard Installations.

Third, ORS has offered to act as an administrator and receiver for the operators' status reports. The Commission appreciates the ORS' willingness to take on this task and accepts the offer. The utilities shall submit their reports to the ORS according to the terms of the Commission's directive in this Order. The Commission requests that the ORS in turn submit a collective filing describing each utility's progress in reconfiguring its meter sets and installing splash guards.

Fourth, the ORS argues that the Commission should reconsider its decision which requires the Commission Staff to study the \$5,000 property damage reporting

requirement in Commission Regulation 103-415 with an eye towards lowering the \$5,000 threshold in the future. We grant ORS' Petition for Reconsideration on this point. This Commission issued proposed amended regulations for Article 4 on April 25, 2006, with public comments being due on May 25, 2006. In these proposed regulations, the Commission Staff proposes that if the gas utility, after the investigation of an accident, finds that the property damage does not exceed \$5,000, the gas utility must notify the affected customer of its findings by certified mail. The proposed amended regulation requires the gas utility to notify the customer that if the customer disagrees with the utility's findings, the customer can file a written complaint with the Commission and provide a copy of the complaint to the ORS. As a review of Article 4 of the Commission's regulations is in progress, interested persons are encouraged to provide input and suggestions.

Finally, ORS requests that the Commission clarify its Order to state that ORS does perform on-site investigation of any reportable accidents. We grant clarification. Indeed, ORS does perform on-site investigations of reportable accidents. It is now clear to the Commission that the ORS initially did not conduct an on-site investigation into the subject of this Docket, as it only learned of Ms. Ayer's claim that her property damage exceeded \$5,000 several months after the incidents which gave rise to these proceedings.

Accordingly, as outlined above, we grant the Petition and Motion in part and deny in part.

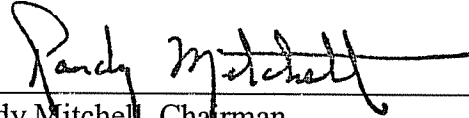
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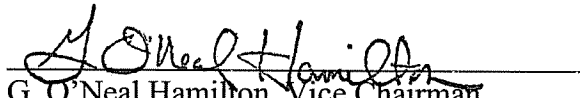
This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Mitchell", written over a horizontal line.

Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. O'Neal Hamilton", written over a horizontal line.

G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman  
(SEAL)